

THE JEWISH HERALD

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The Spiritual and Material

During Yom Kippur service at Temple Beth Israel Monday Henry J. Dannenbaum, president of the congregation, delivered an address on "Atonement."

He spoke as follows:

It is the province of our rabbi to explain and to enforce the spiritual duties which we owe as Jews. With that office I do not intend to meddle. But as your temporal leader I am concerned with the material side of congregational life, and on this great day for self-study it is timely to discuss our financial problems and duties. We are not only Jews but congregants of Beth Israel, and therefore owe the further duty of supporting its communal system. What we are doing in that regard and what is yet to be done are proper subjects for this day's thoughts.

There is a popular idea that the spiritual and the material do not mix well, that they are strangers and even enemies of each other. A moment will show that this is a mistake, that they are in fact friends; that the material encourages and supports the spiritual. Beneath every great moral achievement is the bread and butter—the living—of the man who does it. The best results of the painter's brush or sculptor's chisel are reflected in the bid of the art collector. The kings and queens of music and of song levy tribute upon the purses of their willing subjects and the publishers of the Bible and of Shakespeare must reckon upon printers' wages and the price of paper. The grandeur of the mountains and old ocean's solemn roar are for those able to take the trip, and they who would worship in stately edifice should help to bear the expense.

No reasonable person will expect to live in a mansion on what it has cost him to keep up a cottage. Just so far as this temple excels our old synagogue in comfort and in beauty, just so much

more does it deserve our generous support. It is true that one can be religious anywhere, that Jacob sleeping on the rocks could find the Lord also in that place, but since climate and the seasons require indoor worship, our altars must be built in quarters both comfortable and attractive. In all the ages men have built temples where they might meet and pay homage to the Creator, and history attests that the finest temples and the highest culture have flourished side by side. Solomon's proverbs and his temple were the products of the same reign. Grecian intellect reached its summit within the walls of the Parthenon, and the university and the cathedral are fellow workers in the civilization of our time. The reason for this is to be found, not in the desire to show respect and make sacrifice to the Supreme Power of the universe. The shepherd of Judea brought to the altar an offering from his flock, and in the same spirit we give of our substance that our faith may live and have a home suitable to the day and place.

EFFECT OF NEW SYNAGOGUE.

This building was born of the need for larger quarters; it arose from the fact that the old synagogue on Franklin avenue did not fitly represent, in the sight of God or man, the oldest Jewish community in Houston. It may have cost more, it may be more elaborate than some think necessary, but such as it is it was the choice of the great majority of our members, and it behooves us all to bring to its support the same zeal and the same sacrifice as did our fathers to the work of their hands. Forty years ago a mere handful of men bravely and faithfully built and maintained what in those days was a palatial synagogue. Shall not we much stronger in numbers and in wealth, meet the conditions of our time with the same degree of success? Let the fact enter our minds and hearts that we

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